



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES

State Fire Safety Board Meeting

MRA Sun Room - 2407 N. Grand River, Lansing, MI 48906
Thursday, October 21, 2021
1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steven Densmore, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula
Randall Halstead, Liquefied Petroleum or Flammable Compressed Gas Industry
Kenneth Herbart, Chair, Representing Registered Architects
Ruth Ann Knapp, Representing School Board Administrators/Members
Andrew Marceau, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula
Tavis Millerov, Representing Fire Departments in the Lower Peninsula
Patrick Phelan, Representing the Professional Engineers
Dylan Rogers, Representing Places of Public Assemblage
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal/Director, Ex-Officio Member
Brian Talvensaari, Representing Fire Departments in the Upper Peninsula
David Williams, Representing the Licensed Electrical Contractors

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Julie Bulson, Representing Hospital Administrators
Timothy Dockerty, Representing Owners of Adult Foster Care Facilities
Jeramie Morris, Vice Chair, Representing the Chemical Manufacturing Industry
Richard Prestage, Representing the Nursing Home Industry
Robert Williams, Representing the Building Trades
Ora Wolf, Representing the Flammable Liquids Industry

OTHER BUREAU ATTENDEES:

Hollie Metts, LARA/BFS, Executive Secretary
Victoria LaDuke, Bureau of Fire Services

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

The State Fire Safety Board meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. Chairman Kenneth Herbart lead all attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by executive secretary, Hollie Metts. A quorum was determined present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

21-10-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Randall Halstead** and seconded by **Board Member Tavis Millerov** to approve the meeting agenda for October 21, 2021, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

21-10-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member David Williams** and seconded by **Board Member Andrew Marceau** to approve the meeting minutes from June 17, 2021, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Victoria LaDuke, Bureau of Fire Services: Ms. LaDuke introduced herself to the board and shared that she would be happy to answer any questions the board members had regarding the appeals.

V. STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:

- a. **Bureau Overview:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier provided an overview of the bureau programs and staffing updates.
- b. **Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council (MFFTC) Overview:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier also provided an overview of the MFFTC, including the make-up of the board, how fireworks safety fees fund firefighter training, and the recent behavioral and mental health training initiative. He also shared that the council has been in the process of updating the Fire Fighters Training Council General Rules since [Public Act 291 of 1966](#), the Fire Fighters Training Council Act, was amended in 2018. He happily shared that the end of the administrative rules process is in sight as the draft rules are to JCAR for review. He anticipates the rules will be adopted before the end of 2021.
- c. **Firefighting Foam Training Video:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that the bureau is developing a training video on how to safely use firefighting foam and that every firefighter in Michigan will be required to watch it.
- d. **MI Prevention Updates:**
 - i. **Fire Prevention Month:** Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that Governor Whitmer has proclaimed October 2021 as Fire Prevention Month in Michigan. This year's theme follows the National Fire Protection Association's theme, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety." MI Prevention will be posting educational material all month long on our social media platforms and board members were encouraged to visit www.miprevention.org for more information.
 - ii. **Caregiver Video:** As part of the MI Prevention Disability Project, Fire Marshal Sehlmeier shared that a caregiver [video](#) was developed especially for caregivers or anyone who takes care of someone to increase their chances of surviving a residential fire.

iii. Fatal Fire Stats (as of 10/21/21):

1. 86 fire related deaths in 74 fires
2. This is a 5% decrease year to date as compared to 2020
3. Most common reported areas of origin are: 1) Living Room, 2) Bedroom, and 3) Kitchen.
4. Most common reported fire causes: 1) Smoking, 2) Heating, and 3) Cooking.
5. Residents between the ages of 40 and 79 years old are at the greatest risk.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

- a. **House Bill 4077 (unattended fueling):** No updates to report. If passed, this bill will allow for unattended fueling in Michigan without an attendant in place.
- b. **HB 4171 and HB 4172 (Cancer Presumption for Firefighters):** No updates to report. If passed, these bills will provide cancer presumption for all firefighters in the State.
- c. **HB 4382 (Smoke alarms):** No updates to report. If passed, this bill would eliminate 9-volt smoke alarms. Consumers would only be able to buy smoke alarms with 10-year lithium-ion batteries.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Fireworks Citation Appeals:

- i. **Citation #21-00013:** The administrative file was presented to the board for review and discussion. Chairman Herbart called the appeal to order at 2:25 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. The board voted to uphold the State Fire Marshal's review decision. Uphold: 10, Overrule: 0, Absent: 6, Abstention: 1. The appeal adjourned at 2:26 p.m. The appellant will be notified of the board's decision in writing.
- ii. **Citation #21-00008:** The administrative file was presented to the board for review and discussion. Chairman Herbart called the appeal to order at 2:33 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. The board voted to uphold the State Fire Marshal's review decision. Uphold: 10, Overrule: 0, Absent: 6, Abstention: 1. The appeal adjourned at 2:34 p.m. The appellant will be notified of the board's decision in writing.

IX. STATE FIRE SAFETY BOARD COMMENT:

Board Member Ruth Ann Knapp: Ms. Knapp shared that she enjoyed the meeting and that it was an interesting orientation.

Board Member Patrick Thelen: Mr. Thelen shared that he truly appreciates the use of the data by MI Prevention.

Board Member Dylan Rogers: Mr. Rogers commented on the street value of consumer fireworks and that it was helpful to him when considering the citation fines.

X. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING:

21-10-03

A **MOTION** was made by **Board Member Steven Densmore** and seconded by **Board Member Brian Talvensaari** to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting:

Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 1:00 pm

Location: MRA Sun Room - 2407 N. Grand River, Lansing, MI 48906

APPROVED: December 2, 2021 Regular Meeting (motion #21-12-02).